

Appendix A

Public Comment

Included in this appendix are meeting notes from two public meetings held during the course of Vegetation Management Plan development, in April 2001 and May 2002.

April 24, 2001 Meeting

The following are notes from the first Lincoln Park Public Meeting, held April 24, 2001 at Gatewood Elementary School, with then-Urban Forester Jenny Benz, Ann Hirschi, Mike Schnad and Joy Vanderwerff attending from Seattle Parks.

Public Meeting #1

TRAILS

- Initial concern about trail improvement, as a component of the general improvements to Lincoln Park, because apparently there was work done in the past where the gravel size was not compatible to walking.
We discussed how wood chips, although providing a nice cushion, were a short term solution. That new Trail Standards have been developed using crushed gravel that compacts to make a lasting surface for foot traffic.
- Concern expressed about social trails established by kids, dogs, bikes, etc. eroding the bluff and damaging understory of the wooded areas.
Discussed planting barrier plants including nettle, salmon berry etc. that would help close off many of the social trails. Also placing downed woody debris and brush in pathways helps discourage use.
- The pool area on the beach needs monitoring from bikes ruining the embankment.
- Don't want trails to be too fancy – want “natural” character to remain. Longtime users like to walk daily in Lincoln, and want to continue to do so.

TREES

- Can a neighbor who has a professional tree service, volunteer time to help with tree pruning and maintenance?
Yes! Mike says he would be his best friend.
- Plant more trees, both Dough Fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziesii*) and Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus Menziesii*)
Yes, trees will be planted as part of the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) that are appropriate for the cultural conditions (exposure, soils, water, etc.) in the zone for which they are specified.
- Why are Madrone trees dying?
They generally are unhappy in urban conditions and are susceptible to numerous fungal diseases. As part of the VMP, we are consulting a tree expert, Dr. Olaf Ribeiro, to evaluate the trees at Lincoln and make suggestions.

- Leave downed trees! Don't clean up for manicured look. Need them for habitat, etc.
Leaving snags and downed trees is, and will continue to be, Parks policy unless there is a reason related to access or safety.
- Are you going to cut down established trees that are not native?
Definitely not.

INVASIVES

- Why can't you just leave Lincoln be...keep it "natural?" Why are you picking on us? Is this happening to other Seattle parks? We don't want it turned into a landscaped, totally manicured park.

Unfortunately, the "natural areas" in Seattle's parks system have been "let be"...that is, ignored for many years. The Urban Forestry Program is an opportunity to pay some attention to this wonderful legacy and rescue these remaining open spaces from invading species. We must plant the next generation of conifers and deciduous canopy trees soon, and try to put these natural areas back into a sustainable balance.

For a look at some successful re-forestation projects currently underway, visit Schmitz Park and Madrona "Woods" and Madrona "Ravine."

- Why do Parks gardeners plant so many species that aren't native? Don't they crowd out natives?
It is important to distinguish between the non- native ornamental species in the Park that do not get aggressive, crowding out the natives. Those areas can continue to be maintained in the high-use picnic, playground and sports areas, separate from the "natural areas" of Lincoln.

- How can you even remove holly from the forested areas without ruining the natural character that already exists? Where to draw the line between removing plants and preserving nature?
The invasive removal will be done by hand – not machinery. Volunteers will be trained to recognize natives and invasives.

We may try a phased approach, or as volunteer groups get to the different areas. This way it will not happen all at once. We will be sensitive to existing habitat. If the encroaching ivy and holly are not removed soon, there will be no healthy forested areas surviving for us to enjoy.

- Why do the maintenance people at Lincoln always mow down the hazelnut trees?
This is an old battle, but now it is Parks policy to prune hazelnuts, rather than to mow them. This practice does take longer and, unfortunately, maintenance personnel are understaffed.
- What about the blackberries? Let nature do it's thing...
*It is a bad idea to leave the Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*)..we could end up with Lincoln Park being just a blackberry thicket. We will not remove the native trailing blackberry. (*Rubus ursinus*) .*

SLIDE AREAS

- What will happen to the slide areas on the bluff?
They are, for the most part, predetermined to slide due to the underlying soils conditions. This is a natural process. However, we will be looking at ways to mitigate water runoff so slides are not encouraged, and will probably suggest some plantings in test areas to help slow erosion on the steep banks.
- Why were clay tiles placed to drain at top of bluff? Isn't this increasing possibility of slope erosion?
They were probably places to help divert water from the trail. This will be revisited as part of the trail renovation work happening within the next year.

VOLUNTEERS

- Why did volunteers cut holly and dump it over the North Bluff? It is still there...they need to be supervised...especially summer student volunteers who have been known to cut down lots of things.
Agreed that there needs to be better communication with Park personnel, volunteer coordinators and the public.
- Volunteers needed- they can really make a difference as they have at Schmitz Park.
*Ken Shaw(?) spoke eloquently about being a "Friend of Schmitz" and how they had been able to overcome their differences and transform that park from an English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) mono-culture to a almost sustainable, healthy ecosystem.*
- What about people who are disabled and have a hard time working in the park?
There are lots of "job" opportunities for all, from providing snacks, helping publicize work parties, informing interested visitors, etc. We will find a way to work with you.
- How can we help out? Can we get a vest so we are identified as volunteers when working on our own area? Can Ken (from Schmitz) come?
Joy Vanderhuff explained how volunteer programs work, and said she would get ID for volunteers. There was enthusiasm for starting a new "Friends of Lincoln" group and a work party was planned for May 12, Saturday morning. Ken graciously agreed to attend. Mike Schnad will also attend.

OVERALL VMP

- Plant more understory! We want to see Trillium and viola spp. And other native species.
This is certainly a goal of the Urban Forestry program and we will be recommending expansion of the forest edges to increase understory vegetation.
- Plant more native vegetation on the beach.
The beach areas will be a VMP zone and we can make recommendations for enhancing these areas.
- Is stinging nettle (*urtica dioica*) invasive? Will you keep it or not? Sometimes it hangs over the trails.
We will not remove it.

- Monitoring and maintenance plans will also be a part of the vegetation management plan.
- How can we keep vehicles from driving onto the grounds from middle parking lot? Keep folks from picking all the mushrooms? Lincoln needs more protection.
It is a high use park, lots of weekend visitors, and ground crews have been added on the weekends to help out. There definitely needs to be more monitoring and citizens should not be afraid to talk to park users or call 911 if illegal activity is going on...such as removing vegetation.
- What is the next VMP process?
The next meeting for the VMP will likely be held in early fall. A draft plan will be available for comment by anyone who is interested. We can also keep you updated at scheduled work parties, and you can contact the Urban Forestry Program, Seattle Parks and Recreation, at any time with ideas and questions.
- Can we get copies of the Seattle Urban Nature maps that are being used as a basis for the different ecosystems in the park?
Yes. We will include them with minutes of this meeting and copies of the slide presentation.

OTHER CONCERNS

- Pesticide use has been decreased at city parks over the past few years. The Parks department Pesticide Reduction program is also working with alternative treatments such as compost tea and mycorrhizal fungi.
- Why was the pond filled in years ago? Can letters of fear (drowning) from one or two people overrule everyone else?
Many different needs and concerns are constantly being juggled to keep park users happy. We want to hear from all of you. The new "Friends of Lincoln" group will certainly have some clout with Parks officials – so get involved!
- There are some problems of illegal activity within the park.
The more volunteers are there working on a regular basis, the less chance of illegal activity taking place.
- The five mercury lights on the beach near shelters 1 & 2 need work. #1 and #3 flash intermittently, #2 is out and #4 & #5 are on 24 hours a day. This wastes energy!
We will notify responsible parks staff.

May 22, 2002 Meeting

Following are the agenda and notes from the second Lincoln Park Public Meeting, held May 22, 2002 at Gatewood Elementary School. Attending or presenting for Seattle Parks were: Urban Forester Eliza Davidson, Interns Ann Hirschi and David Bergendorf, Senior Urban Forester Mark Mead, SW District Manager Don Allen, Senior Gardener Mike Schnad and Volunteer Coordinator Bev Ross.

LINCOLN PARK VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING – MAY 22, 2001 7:00 – 8:30 pm

AGENDA

Sign in	6:45 – 7:10
Welcome and Introductions Process and Schedule Eliza Davidson, Urban Forester	7:10 – 7:15
Slide Show on VMP Findings and Recommendations Ann Hirschi, Urban Forestry Program David Bergendorf, Urban Forestry Program Eliza Davidson	7:15 – 7:50
Implementation Strategies: Creating Friends of Lincoln Park Bev Ross, Seattle Parks Volunteer Coordinator Mike Schnad, Senior Gardener - Southwest District	7:50 – 8:00
Community Questions, Comments and Dialogue on VMP Eliza, David and Ann	8:00 – 8:30

FEEDBACK

- Discussion of previous “Friends of Lincoln Park” group: how to locate former members, bank account?
 Gary Moseley, 935-9240
- Concerns for longterm health of Madrona trees
 According to Mike Schnad, park policy now is to remove only those that pose a risk as a potential hazard and leave others standing for habitat and form
 One attendee feels the dead and dying madronas should all be removed
 Discussed some of the reasons, including poor drainage, that are huge issues for madrona health.
- Noxious weed removal
 Gorse is being removed by Park staff and volunteers as they are available. Mike will help orient any persons who wish to help, if they check in at the SW maintenance building first.

DRAFT

- Use the kiosk for information and photos of invasive plants, and to help educate the public and provide information to park users
It is generally agreed by Parks' staff that better use of the kiosk can be made. Staff will post information on native plants as well as invasives, to help interpret ongoing work at Lincoln Park to the public.

Notice of meetings will also go into kiosk.
- Adopt a Park sign
- Discussion of the old exercise course- pro and con
Although a few park users like the remaining portions of the exercise course at Lincoln Park, and make a point of using it, many at the meeting felt it should be removed as it detracts from the Park's natural character. Unless there is a groundswell of interest with accompanying resources, it most likely will be left to rot until it becomes dangerous.
- Vegetation. Management Plan findings note that there are some security issues at Lincoln and that directional signage could use an overhaul
Don Allen, Southwest District manager, noted that new signage has been ordered and is coming soon.
- What about the Black Locust that are sprouting up all over the large slide area near the north end of the park?
Issue noted. At this time, no action has been proposed to remove it.

Closing

8:30 pm